

LALBHAI DALPATBHAI MUSEUM



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Introduction

The Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum of the L.D. Institute of Indology, is a museum of Indian Sculptures, Paintings and Coins, located in Ahmedabad. Ever since its inception in 1956, the Institute has been collecting and preserving rare manuscripts and artifacts of various kinds. The Museum is the product of the vision and energy of the two remarkable persons who were responsible for its establishment: Muni Shri Punyavijayji, an erudite monk

scholar, and Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the well known industrialist of Ahmedabad. As the collection grew over the years the Board of Trustees of the Institute felt strongly the need for a separate museum building to house the display of its collection. Consequently, a new museum building was built as an annex to the existing building which was also designed by the internationally acclaimed architect, Shri Balkrishna Doshi. The collection in the new museum building was opened to the public in 1984.

Location

The Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum is situated on a sprawling campus in the western part of the city in an area dotted with educational and research institutes and in the vicinity of Gujarat University. It is about 12 kilometers from the Railway Station and 16 kilometers from the airport and is therefore easily accessible from any part of the city.

Madhuri D. Desai Gallery

Smt. Madhuri D. Desai, an art connoisseur, collector and the daughter in-law of the veteran freedom fighter and jurist, Shri Bhulabhai Desai, has been a major donor to the Sculpture Gallery named after her. The Collection was donated in 1977-78. The gallery is unique since all the major regional styles of the sub-continent are



*Buddha Head, 4th - 5th Century,
Stucco, Gandhara*

represented here. The outstanding pieces include the largest head of Buddha (3rd-4th century) in stucco from Gandhara, the earliest cult image of Lord Rama (early 6th century) Gupta period from Devghadh, Madhya Pradesh, a rare figure of Matrika Aindri (6th century) from Shamlaji (Gujarat), the Adinath bronze image (7th-8th century) from Sirpur (near Nandurbar, Maharashtra), the Jaina bronze

images from Ghogha (Dist. Bhavnagar, Gujarat) and some of the finest examples of Buddha images from Mathura / Sarnath, Nalanda and Nepal / Tibet. Besides, the Madhuri Desai gallery includes some very fine Chola sculptures (10th-12th century) from Tamilnadu. A majestic group of four Tirthankaras from Ladol dating between 11th and 13th centuries, is displayed in Chaumukha arrangement. Recently has been added a large new showcase displaying nine portrait statues of distinguished personages from Gujarat during the medieval period which include the Solanki King, Maharaja Jaisinha (Siddharaj). The portraits are inscribed with the date of V.S. 1285 = 1228 A.D. (that is, during the Waghela period) and the find spot is Harij (near Patan).



*Dakshinamurti Shiva,
9th century, Granite,
Chola-Period, South India*

Muni Punyavijayaji Gallery

The Museum has one of the finest collections of paintings in the Gujarat Jaina style, some of which are painted before the Mughal period and are displayed in the Muni Punyavijayaji Gallery. The collection, which was assembled by the Muniji during 1940s, has some rare illustrated wooden book covers (patli) created for palm-leaf manuscripts. The Jaina pilgrimage paintings on cloth executed in 1433 A.D. at Champaner (Gujarat) is the earliest extant example of such a painting on cloth. Similarly, a Vijnaptipatra painted at Agra by the



*Parsvanatha, 11th Century,
Marble, Ladol (Gujarat)*

Mughal painter, Ustad Salivahana, in 1610 A.D., is the earliest painted document of its kind. It refers to the Mughal emperor Jahangir's farman prohibiting the killing of animals in his empire during the Jaina festival of Paryusana.

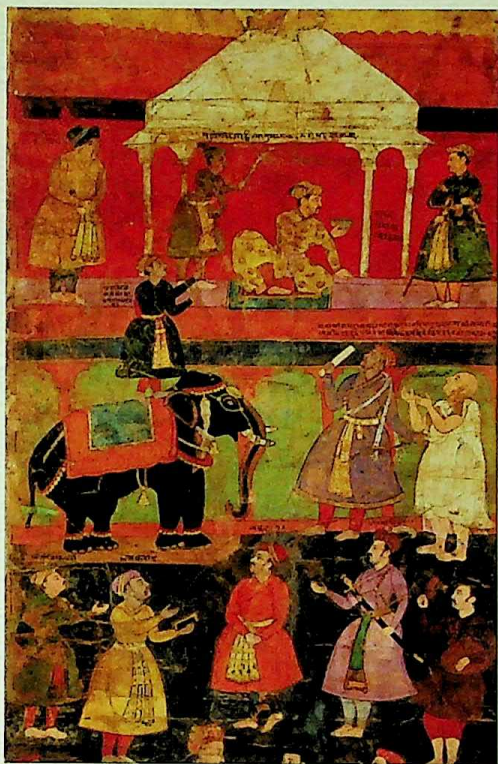
Other outstanding examples on show include the earliest painted paper manuscript dated 1346 A.D. the illustrated mss. of the Kalakacharyakatha (c.1430) in Mandu style, the Matar Sangrahani sutra (d.1583) painted by Chitara Govinda, the Shripala Rasa (18th century) in the late Gujarat style, and several rare cosmological diagrams called Adhidvipa (c.1440) and the Jaina Siddhachakra yantra. The Punyavijayaji Gallery also has a section which highlights the age old tradition of wood carving in Gujarat.



*Buddha, 9th Century, Basalt,
Pala Period, Eastern India*

P.T. Munshaw Gallery

This gallery has on display a representative collection of historical phases of coinage of India which was posthumously gifted by Smt. Nandiniben Munshaw in 2005 A.D. in memory of her husband. The collection includes the earliest punched-marked coin called bentbar (c. 600 B.C.), Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi coin, Jahangir's Imperial Roman silver coin, coin of Chandragupta II, Zodiac series in silver and Adil Shah's Larin (d.1668)



*Jahangir Farman (Vijnaptipatra),
1610 A.D. Popular Mughal Style, Paper,
Painted at Agra, Artist : Ustad Salivahan*



*Mahavira and ascetic, Samvatsari Danam,
V.S. 1517 = 1460 A.D., Paper, Kalpsutra, Painted at Patan (Gujarat)*



*Vajrayana Buddhist Mandala on Copper Plate, (19 Statuettes),
18th Century, Bronze, Nepal/Tibet*

Shri Arvindbhai Collection

Among the objects gifted during 2007, on behalf of late Shri Arvindbhai and on display are a Chola style Nataraja, (11th century) a Nepali / Tibetan Bronze Mandala, (18th century) an elaborately decorated Chinese / Japanese style cupboard in wood. This gift has widened the scope of the various collections to emerge as a Museum of Asian Art in the Gujarat region.

Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai Collection

Acquired during 1940s, it comprises of a large collection of Indian Drawings obtained from Tagore Family of Calcutta. It is represented by a display of one dozen exquisite drawings for Indian Miniature paintings belonging to various regional schools, between seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.

L.D. Museum Conservation Laboratory

The modest laboratory has been recently set up where we have facilities for conservation of miniature paintings. Preliminary surface cleaning of stone sculptures and metal objects is also carried out.



Adinatha, 7th - 8th Century, Bronze, Sirpur, Maharashtra



*Lakshmi, Chandragupta II,
4th Century, Gupta Period,
Gold*

Timings : Open on all days accept Mondays
and Public Holiday,
from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Summer (from 1st May to 15th June)
8.00 a.m. To 1.00 p.m.

Entrance: Free

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ncm.gallery@ymail.com

For further details contact:

Director / Museum Keeper
Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum
Near Gujarat University Bus-stop,
Navrangpura,
Ahmedabad 380 009 (India)

Transport

Bus, Taxi and Auto-rickshaw from Railway-station and Bus-station

Bus Numbers that stop at Gujarat University near to Museum

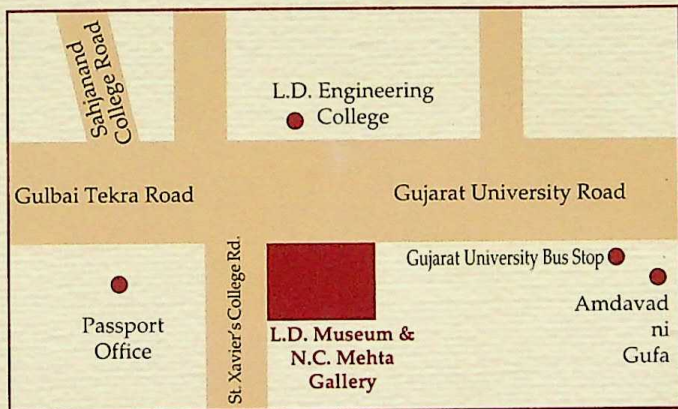
(23, 40, 40/3, 46, 47, 50, 52, 52/2, 54, 56, 56/1, 58, 60, 136, 142, 160, 200)

Parking space is available without charge

Photography is allowed only after prior permission and payment.



Location



*Cover - Rama, early 6th century,
Sandstone, Devgad (M.P.)*



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A Division of L. D. Institute of Indology
Ahmedabad